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MEMO/TSG/MED-215-70

27 August 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: TSG Member to the Suggestions Award Committee

SUBJECT : Suggestion No. 71-13; [] Questions

REFERENCE : [] Speed Letter Regarding the Subject, Dated
14 August 1970

The following are my best available answers to the questions in the same sequence they were posed by []

1. The suggestor in this case is a member of the Scientific Division, Imagery Exploitation Group. His primary function is that of photo interpretation; he is also Chief of the Strategic Industries Section. A suggestion of this type is clearly outside of his assigned responsibilities. The initials IRS (IA) stand for Intelligence Research Specialist (Imagery Analyst).

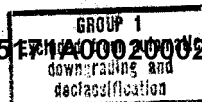
2. The suggestion has not been adopted yet, but is proposed for incorporation on a single light table for evaluation purposes to determine whether or not universal application is appropriate. It will probably require several months for this trial and evaluation to be completed, at which time a decision will be made regarding its incorporation on the remainder of the light tables. (The present total order is for 389 light tables; 36 of these which the Air Force ordered will have no tilt feature and consequently, will never require utilization of this device. It is possible that all of the remainder, of which 265 are specifically for NPIC, may utilize the device.)

3. The cost of the light table is approximately [] per unit, totaling approximately [] for the NPIC order for 265 tables.

4. At this time we have made a very rough estimate of the cost of adding the suggested device to the light tables. We do not believe it will cost more than [] per table. It may cost considerably less than this amount.

5. It is possible that there was a considerable R&D cost savings as the result of this suggestion. It is quite likely that the development of suitable hold-down system by an external contract would have

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SUBJECT: Suggestion No. 71-13; [redacted] Questions

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cost from [redacted] and would have resulted in a considerably more complex system costing as much as [redacted] per table. However, the success of the device and these cost estimates are still speculative. We have not yet arranged for any contractual utilization of this suggestion; as previously stated, this will come, if and when, our trial of the device proves it to be successful in providing adequate hold-down without damaging the film.

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6. It is our understanding that inventions made as a result of our work here at EPIC are inherently license-free for government utilization and that this is particularly true if the invention is submitted as a Beneficial Suggestion in accordance with the initial statement made on the Employee Suggestion form. The official regulations concerning this matter are not known to us and should be obtained from appropriate legal authorities elsewhere than the Agency.

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[redacted]
Special Assistant for Plans & Applications, [redacted]

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